Fee structure in Universities

1785. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RSOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reforms Committee of the Finance Ministry has recommended for raising the present fee structure of Universities and other educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of increase likely to be effected *viz-a-viz* the present fee being charged in the Universities and other educational institutions thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its 9th Report has recommended, *inter-alia*, that fees in Higher Educational Institutions needs to be revised to meaningful levels so as to have co-relation to the cost of education in such institutions. It however, has also recommended that a portion of the additional realization from such increase in fee be used for extending free-ships to students from poor families, besides granting scholarships to meritorious students. The Government has suitably advised the University Grants Commission in this regard who, however, has not so far issued any specific instruction.

Schooling in North Eastern Region

1786. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of Government of India's schemes for education to all by 2003 in the North Eastern Region with particular reference to Assam; and

(b) whether such schemes are Centrally financed by Government or will it be jointly financed by Government of India and the States; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Government of India launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for providing quality education to all children of the age-group 6-14 in the country, including Assam in North Eastern Region, by 2010. One of the goals of SSA and its component, District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), is to enroll all children of the above said age-group in regular schools or centres under Education Guarantee Scheme or Alternative and Innovative Education by year 2003. DPEP, in the North Eastern region of the country, is in operation only in Assam.

Interventions under SSA and its component, DPEP, include setting up of schools/alternative education centres, appointment of teachers, qualitative improvement of education, teacher training, academic support to schools and alternative education centres, provision of teaching-learning material, construction of classrooms and school buildings, setting up of Block and Cluster Resource Centres, special focus on girls and disadvantaged groups, integrated education of the disabled children.

(b) SSA is being implmented by the Central and State Governments, of North Eastern Region, as also of other states, in partnership with the local Government and community. district Elementary Education Plans, prepared through community ownership are the basis of the programme implementation. The sharing pattern of funding between the Centre and State was 85:15 in the 9th Plan, is 75:25 in the 10th Plan and would be 50:50 thereafter.

DPEP, which is in operation in Assam, has a sharing pattern of funding between Central and State Government as 85:15.

The District Elementary Education Plans, under SSA, for the financial year 2002-03 of all the 78 districts of the North Eastern States, including 23 districts of Assam, have been approved for a total amount of Rs. 236.078 crore, which include Rs. 150.40 crore for Assam. In addition to this, Annual Work Plan and Budget for 9 districts of Assam for a sum of Rs. 50.00 crore have been approved under DPEP.